process. Further declaration of new National Highways is also done in phases. However, all these are dependent on the availability of resources.

**Cargo Handling by Paradeep Port Trust**

3824. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the cargo handled by the Paradeep Port Trust in 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the year-wise details thereof along with the berth occupancy of the Port and the profit earned during the said period; and

(c) the detailed steps taken to increase the berth occupancy capacity of the Port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) During the last three years i.e. 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 the details of Cargo handled, Average Berth Occupancy and profit earned by the Paradip Port Trust are as under:—

| Year | Cargo handled (In million tonnes) | Average Berth Occupancy | Profit earned/ Gross Surplus (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1995-96 | 11.26 | 83% | 39.45 |
| 1996-97 | 11.58 | 66% | 46.79 |
| 1997-98 | 13.30 | 65% | 50.71 |

(c) Steps have been taken by the Port to construct additional berths thereby augmenting the Port capacity for handling Thermal coal and Crude/POL.

**Payment of Right-of-Way Fee**

3825. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has issued any directions for the payment of Rs. 100,000 per km. by the private basic telecom operators as a right-of-way fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether such directions are not applicable in the case of Department of Telecommunications and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The policy for permitting private basic/celluler telecom operators to lay cables within right-of-way of National Highways in under finalisation. Pending finalisation of the policy, interim permission has been granted subject to certain conditions. These include interim payment at the rate of Rs. 5/-per metre as part payment for lease charges for use of National Highway land. This would be subject to the proviso that the company undertakes to pay the final charges as may be decided by the Government. The licensee is also required to furnish a bank guarantee of Rs. 25/- per metre to State Public Works Departments for a period of one year for ensuring making good the excavated trench for laying of cables by proper filling and compaction.

(c) The issue of such charges being payable by Department of Telecommunication is under discussion with concerned Ministries.

**Construction of Bypass Express way to Hyderabad**

3826. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have proposed to assist the Andhra Pradesh Government for construction of an effective Bypass Express Way to Hyderabad for quick movement of traffic; and

(b) if so, the measures taken for early financial assistance to the State Government in public interest?